

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION
2006 - 2010 Draft Strategic Plan

INTRODUCTION

This strategic plan is meant to complement organizationally the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (Regional Plan) required to be developed and implemented under the Delta Protection Act of 1992.

Few dispute the claim that the Delta is a fragile ecosystem that nonetheless serves as a vital hub in California's water infrastructure. The Delta Protection Act was passed to protect and enhance the resources of the Delta for those who live, work and play there. The Commission has come with time to play a unique role in the healthy future of the Delta along with many other stakeholders and stewards of this resource. While focusing on a regional approach to land use and resource management planning, the Commission shares overlapping accountability with local, state and federal entities, both public and private. In order to discharge its role effectively, the Commission needs not only a Regional Plan, but also a clear vision of the future of the Delta and a roadmap so that the future is a healthy one for all concerned. This strategic plan sets forth that vision and roadmap.

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION
2006 - 2010 Draft Strategic Plan
OVERVIEW OF THREATS**

The purpose of the Delta Protection Commission is to protect, preserve and enhance the Delta as it exists today serving multiple functions, including:

- agricultural land preservation;
- habitat protection;
- enhancing recreational opportunities;
- flood protection;
- water conveyance for 23 million consumers; and
- serving as a water and land transportation network, along with many other vital infrastructure components.

Threats to the above include:

- inconsistent levee integrity;
- proximity to seismic fault zones;
- population growth and increased demands on all infrastructure elements of the Delta;
- urban encroachment in the primary and secondary zones;
- market pressures on agribusiness along with conversion of ag land to non-agriculture uses;
- lack of truly integrated regional planning and implementation;
- disputes over public access;
- environmental influences (e.g., invasion of non-native species in the waterways, rising ocean levels, water quality issues); and
- lack of a broad sense of stewardship and social responsibility (e.g., abandoned vessels, dumping and pollution).

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION
2006 - 2010 Draft Strategic Plan

Vision:

The Delta in the year 2030 is a dynamic and living system whose health indicators include:

- an integrated approach to land use and resource management planning sufficient to protect, maintain, enhance and restore the cultural and economic sustainability of residents, businesses and agricultural and recreational interests consistent with a healthy ecosystem;
- sufficient flood protection (e.g., levee maintenance and improvement and subsidence mitigation) for residential, commercial, agricultural and public infrastructure; and
- sufficient water flow in and through the Delta to meet the needs of water users (residential, commercial and agricultural), recreation and habitat preservation consistent with California's demographic growth.

Mission:

To protect, maintain, and, where possible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment, including but not limited to agriculture, wildlife habitat and recreational resources and opportunities; assure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources and improved flood protection.

Program Strategy: *Fully implement the Act.*

- 1.) Effectively integrate the Regional Plan into local government general plans.
 - Work proactively with local planning departments to ensure full integration of Regional Plan into general plans.
- 2.) Act as the appeal body for inconsistencies between general plans and the Regional Plan.
- 3.) Implement the Regional Plan on a prioritized basis and consistent with the Act.
 - Develop and implement annual work plans that target implementation needs flexibly and in partnership with stakeholders.
- 4.) Participate actively in the development of a long-range (50-year) Delta-wide vision and management plan in which the Regional Plan would be included as elements.
- 5.) Initiate a proactive approach to coordinated participation in legislative and regulatory efforts so that DPC influence is represented proactively in all discussions of proposed relevant legislation and regulatory change.

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION
2006 - 2010 Draft Strategic Plan

Funding Strategy: *Develop funding sources fully.*

- 1.) Continue to receive funds as designated under the Act.
 - Submit a Budget Change Proposal in 2006 - 2007 to make budget whole for 2007 - 2008.
- 2.) Maximize funding allowable under the Act.
 - Pursue grant and bond opportunities.
 - Consider member contributions for specific activities and tasks.
- 3.) Efficiently manage DPC's budgetary resources.
 - Streamline Budget Unit components.

Leadership Strategy: *Develop and maintain the partnership between Commission and staff.*

- 1.) Ensure a well-informed and effective membership body of Commissioners.
 - Develop and implement Commissioner orientation program.
 - Establish meeting attendance norms and processes.
- 2.) Hire the best qualified and highest performing staff possible to carry out the responsibilities of the Commission consistent with the Act, this Strategic Plan and the Administrative Work Plan.
 - Evaluate long-term position / level needs.
 - Develop comprehensive recruitment and retention package.

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION
2006 - 2010 Draft Strategic Plan

2006 Administrative Work Plan [Sample Page Only]:

[Note: The examples given may not represent the items included in the actual work plan; they are for illustration only.]

Goal / Objective	Who	When	Status
Ensure consistency of county and city general plans with the Regional Plan.			
1.) Meet with all affected local planning department staffs to determine process for proactive integration of General Plan updates with Regional Plan requirements.	Executive Director	12/06	
2.) Coordinate access to city and county elected bodies and their staffs as needed to ensure smooth enactment of integrated general plans.	Local Commissioners	6/07	